

CLAIMS:

1. A method of automatic execution of an application on a receiving station (109), comprising
- receiving a signal (102) comprising a plurality of streams, each stream being associated with a channel on the receiving station (109) and comprising a content portion (103, 104, 105) and zero or more application portions (106, 107, 108),
- receiving a channel selection from a user,
- displaying the content portion (103, 104, 105) of the stream associated with the selected channel, and
- when execution of applications is enabled, executing an application present in the application portion (106, 107, 108), if any, of the stream associated with the selected channel,
- characterized in that
- execution of applications is disabled in response to a user selecting a channel, and
- execution of applications is enabled in response to the occurrence of an enabling event, indicating that the user is actively viewing the selected channel.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a timer is reset in response to any user interaction with the receiving station (109), and the enabling event comprises the timer reaching a predetermined timeout value.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the enabling event comprises erasing an on-screen display element (202, 203, 204) from a display system (200).
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the on-screen display element (202, 203, 204) is an identifier (202) for the current channel.

5. A method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the on-screen display element (202, 203, 204) is the last of a plurality of on-screen display elements being displayed.
- 5 6. A receiving station (109), comprising
a receiving unit (205) for receiving a signal (102) comprising a plurality of streams, each stream being associated with a channel on the receiving station (109) and comprising a content portion (103, 104, 105) and zero or more application portions (106, 107, 108),
10 a selection unit (206) for receiving a channel selection from a user,
a display control unit (207) for displaying the content portion (103, 104, 105) of the stream associated with the selected channel, and
an execution unit (208) for determining if execution of applications is enabled, and if so, executing an application present in the application portion (106, 107, 108), if any,
15 of the stream associated with the selected channel,
characterized in that
the execution unit (208) is arranged to disable execution of applications in response to a user selecting a channel, and
the execution unit (208) is arranged to enable execution of applications in
20 response to the occurrence of an enabling event, indicating that the user is actively viewing the selected channel.
7. A receiving station (109) as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the receiving station (109) comprises a timer (209), arranged to be reset in response to any user
25 interaction with the receiving station (109), and the enabling event comprises the timer (209) reaching a predetermined timeout value.
8. A receiving station (109) as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the receiving station (109) comprises an on-screen display unit (201), and the enabling event
30 comprises the on-screen display unit (201) erasing an on-screen display element (202, 203, 204) from a display system (200).
9. A receiving station (109) as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the on-screen display element (202, 203, 204) is an identifier for the current channel (202).

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10. A receiving station (109) as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the on-screen display element (202, 203, 204) is the last of a plurality of on-screen display elements being displayed by the on-screen display unit (201).

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